

# Factsheet ParkinsonNet

'Improving the lives of people impacted by Parkinson's disease worldwide'

## Background

More than 30,000 persons in the Netherlands have Parkinson's disease. ParkinsonNet is an initiative of Radboud University Medical Centre and was founded in 2004 to offer these patients the best possible care, and to improve their quality of life. ParkinsonNet aims to achieve this by improving Parkinson-specific expertise, and by supporting personalized healthcare.

## Our mission

We want to make sure that every person with Parkinson's disease receives the best care possible, everywhere in the world.

## How does ParkinsonNet help patients?

ParkinsonNet is a professional healthcare and research network covering all of the Netherlands. ParkinsonNet brings healthcare professionals together and facilitates Parkinson-specific specialization, interdisciplinary collaboration, and exchange of knowledge. To date, ParkinsonNet consists of 68 regional professional networks and includes around 3,000 dedicated healthcare professionals (among others neurologists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech-language therapists and Parkinson's nurses) who have been specifically trained to deliver optimal Parkinson care.

## Our specific services

ParkinsonNet provides intensive professional training, develops evidence-based guidelines, educates patients and empowers them in self-management, facilitates research, and connects patients and healthcare professionals. ParkinsonNet also promotes concentration of care among dedicated healthcare professionals, so they treat a much larger volume of Parkinson's patients each week. This enables these professionals to gain increasingly more Parkinson-specific experience. Finally, ParkinsonNet creates transparency about outcomes and healthcare costs, as a basis for continuous improvement.

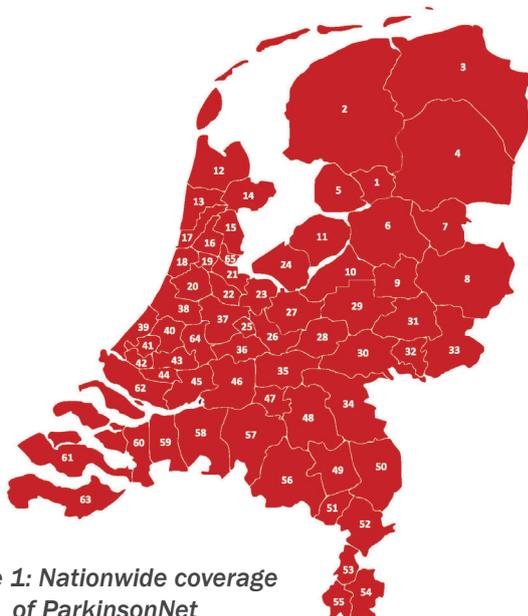


Figure 1: Nationwide coverage of ParkinsonNet

## Primary aim of ParkinsonNet

### Our three goals:

- Optimal quality of life
- The best quality of care
- Self-management of patients

### We achieve this through

1. Creating optimal care for Parkinson's patients by:
  - a. Improving Parkinson-specific expertise among healthcare professionals
  - b. Promoting multidisciplinary collaboration between PD\* experts
  - c. PD experts working in a network where they share knowledge and expertise
  - d. Changing referral paths to increase caseloads per expert
  - e. Seeing our patients as partner and as part of the multidisciplinary team
2. Having a coordination center that organizes:
  - a. Professional training to guarantee up-to-date knowledge
  - b. Transparency about outcome data to improve quality of care
  - c. Patient education to stimulate awareness and self-management
  - d. Selection and certification of healthcare providers to guarantee the highest quality of care
  - e. Support for all 68 ParkinsonNet subregions
  - f. Promotion of the overall network to increase awareness
3. Continuous improvement to support primary aim by
  - a. Guideline development
  - b. Technological innovation

These aims are also shown graphically in figure 2.

\*PD: Parkinson's disease

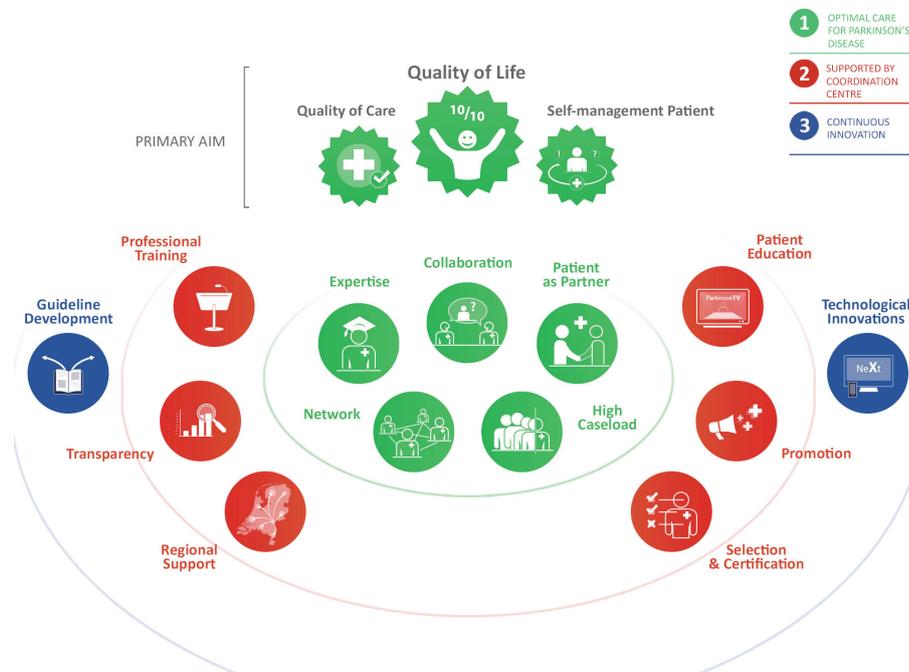


Figure 2: ParkinsonNet concept

### The benefits of the ParkinsonNet approach\*

Research has shown that this multifaceted approach markedly improves the quality of Parkinson management (for example, a better knowledge and use of guidelines). Furthermore, healthcare becomes more efficient, and is better tailored to each individual's personal needs. ParkinsonNet approach is associated with fewer disease complications (including a substantial reduction in hip fractures) and reduces the number of inpatient admissions. Importantly, ParkinsonNet professionals work with greater job satisfaction, and patients feel more secure. This quality improvement achieved by ParkinsonNet also helps to contain the healthcare costs, allowing for cost savings as high as 7.5% of the annual expenditure on chronic Parkinson care. Patients are able to successfully engage in self-management. Finally, ParkinsonNet offers a unique infrastructure for launching large-scale clinical studies, with easy access to patients and professionals across the country.

### Awards

Because of these marked achievements, ParkinsonNet has received multiple national and international awards. This includes include the "Pearl" prize for the best healthcare innovation in The Netherlands (2011), and the prestigious Value Based Health Care Award by the renowned Harvard health economist Prof. Michael J. Porter (2015).

### Existing international implementations

There is considerable interest internationally to implement networks similar to ParkinsonNet. We have meanwhile successfully developed a ParkinsonNet network in two other countries:

- Kaiser Permanente: 200 providers trained in a network containing 7000 patients.
- Germany: 1 regional network implemented (20 providers).

Both networks are in the implementation phase since 2014. We are now ready to help with the implementation of a ParkinsonNet approach in other regions and other countries.

### Expected financial outcomes of a ParkinsonNet in your region

Three years after the initial implementation of the network, revenues will begin to exceed the investment costs. The estimated return on investment is based on the implementation of the Dutch ParkinsonNet network. After implementation of the Dutch national network (supporting 30,000 patients with Parkinson's disease) the annual costs to support the network are about 2,5 million Euro while the network results in a estimated annual cost savings of 20 million Euro.

\*BMJ 2014;348: g1838

Interested to bring the ParkinsonNet concept to your own region?

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